

## Welcome back prodigal son Democrats?

Many Democrat Congressional Representatives are cashing in their chips and retiring in advance of what many political prognosticators see as a coming 'Red wave,' especially in swing districts in the 2022 mid-terms. As of this writing, about 15 Democrat incumbent Congressmen and women and 5 Republicans have decided to saddle up and ride out of the DC sunset and head for greener pastures. While a few have chosen to run for other offices or take other jobs, the majority have seen the opinion polls and read the handwriting on the wall that shows them as highly unpopular or unlikely to win in their home districts. This is nothing new for DC politicians and it happens with some regularity. Rather than be trounced in elections, it is preferable to depart with dignity and let the party's replacement troops march to the front lines.

Back in 2010, towards the mid-way point in Barack Obama's first term, storm clouds of voter discontent were gathering. Obama had moved too fast on too many fronts and his party was suffering the consequences of *change overload* which led to massive voter frustration over abuses of the legislative process. On November 2nd, the voters spoke and spoke loudly. Republicans picked up a net total of 63 Congressional seats and effectively reversed all the gains the Democrats made in 2006 and 2008.

Many pollsters and pundits are predicting a similar recurrence in just eleven short months as a rebuke of Covid-19 inspired federal government overreach in the form of mandates and edicts, Congressional abuse of investigative power and just plain failed leadership on the part of the President. There is something else happening that is affecting politicians' retirement decisions, and it is the documented exodus of disgruntled, angry citizens from largely 'Blue' states and cities to 'Red' ones.

The old adage, "people vote with their feet" is a true one and has been playing out, big time, over the last two years, but it has intensified during the first year of the Biden Administration. Many of America's once beautiful and formerly safe states and cities have become test beds for restorative justice, critical race theory teaching, violent protests, defund police campaigns and rampant race-baiting activities. Americans have watched in horror while our southern border has all but disappeared. A new President side-stepped the problem and passed the buck to his feckless Vice-President who side-stepped it under the guise of "searching for (illegal) immigration's root causes."

Congressional Representatives have been getting an earful from their constituents. In October, Gallup reported that Congress' overall approval rating had dropped six points to 21% (its lowest of the year) while the approval rating for Congressional Democrats had fallen from 55% to 33%. According to Gallup, "Congress' approval is low because hardly any Republicans (5%) and relatively few political independents (22%) offer positive reviews of the legislative body..." When you couple that score with the current approval ratings of the President (43% according to Gallup) and the Vice-President's (28% according to a USAToday/Suffolk poll) it spells *disaster* with a capital 'D' for the Democrats in November.

That's what pro-right advocates would like to believe, anyway. The truth may lie buried somewhere else, in an unmarked grave called, 'traditional voting patterns and change resistance.' Democrats are change agents when it comes to social change but not when it comes to changing party allegiances. They will fall on their sword, shoot themselves in the foot and cut off their nose to spite their face rather than vote for a Republican *unless* they have proof that their ox is being gored more than the opposition's. If that is true, can we then expect the 2022 mid-terms to go the traditional way of other previous mid-terms and give the party out of power more power OR will we see Democrats double or triple-down, dig in their heels and vote their own in again despite their lack of confidence in their own legislators' ability to do anything productive?

This coming mid-term could very well end up as a redo of 2010, but it could also prove the Democrats' legendary intransigence and that they have yet to learn that doing the same thing over

and over again and expecting a different result is still the definition of insanity and that by repeating their support they will only be insuring more legislative inertia for at least the next two years, post mid-term.

There may be a wild card in the mid-term deck, however. Robert Greene mentions it as number one of his *laws of nature* in his book, "The laws of human nature." It is the law of *irrationality*. Simply put, this 'law' says that, "humans think we're rational and in control of our lives, when in reality we're driven by irrational emotions. We're often guided by our emotional impulses. We seek pleasure, avoid pain and do things to soothe our ego." There is a cure for it, but it's painful. We must recognize our biases, beware of higher-grade irrationalities (like doing the same thing over and over again) that can fan the flames of those biases and develop our rational selves.

If that is true, can the Democrats find themselves in time and return to 'the fold' of reasonableness? In the Bible, there is a famous parable in the gospel of Luke. Jesus tells of the prodigal son who asks his father for his inheritance. But when he gets it he squanders it recklessly on a life of self-indulgence. Destitute, he's forced to work as a hired hand for a pig farmer. Realizing that his father's servants have better working conditions, he decides to return to his father, beg his forgiveness and become his servant. When he arrives at his father's house, he is welcomed with open, loving arms. Overwhelmed by joy at his son's return, the father holds a feast in his honor.

As we can see from the 2020 census and the movement away from failed Blue states and cities, some Democrats are 'coming home' and are realizing the error of repetitive voting and support for social and cultural pipe dream programs that are antithetical to traditional American values. The real question is: "Do Republicans have the courage (and wisdom) to welcome them or should they be regarded with skepticism and be shunned?" We shall soon see.

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